



March 3, 2016

Co-Chair Carlo Leone
Co-Chair David Baram
Senator Kevin Witkos
Representative Dan Carter

Members of the General Law Committee:

We are here today in **support** of H.B. 5432, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF SELLERS OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS OR VAPOR PRODUCTS.

This bill fixes what we believe was an unintended drafting error that occurred when the 2015 state budget was drafted.

This legislation is important because it specifies that employees of companies that hold a valid electronic nicotine delivery system certificate are not required to individually register.

What that means is that the employees who work in the 1,400 convenience stores (c-stores) that our members own and operate do not have to pay a \$400 per employee annual registration fee (with an additional one time per employee \$75 application fee).

Without this fix, the law seems to indicate that every person who works in our c-stores would be subject to these fees. Most businesses that sell e-cigarettes could never justify the cost of this registration if every employee were subject to it, and therefore would likely chose not to sell these products and forgo the fees altogether.

In addition to our support for the language contained in this bill, we ask that the word "person" be defined to include corporations. This addition would be consistent with other registrations (ie lottery, cigarette, etc.) that c-stores are required to get.

Respectfully,

Christian A. Herb
President